

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 24, 2009

TIJUANA ESTUARY SEDIMENT FATE AND TRANSPORT STUDY

Project No. 08-028-01
Project Manager: Karen C. Bane

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse an amount not to exceed one hundred ninety five thousand dollars (\$195,000) to augment funding under the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization to Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association for the Tijuana Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Study at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, San Diego County.

LOCATION: County of San Diego, Cities of Imperial Beach and San Diego, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Conservancy 9-25-08 resolution and staff recommendation](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$195,000) to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association to augment the project funding of its September 25, 2008 authorization for the Tijuana Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Study at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. This authorization remains, subject to the conditions of the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization, attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the findings made under the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization. (See Exhibit 2).
 2. The proposed project is consistent with the additional Project Selection Criteria adopted by the Conservancy on June 4, 2009."
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends augmenting the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization to add funding of up to \$195,000 to the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA) to conduct the Tijuana Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Study (Study). These additional funds would come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allocated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the State Revolving Fund of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and awarded to the Conservancy on September 1, 2009 for this project.

The Study was being implemented when the California Department of Finance issued Budget Letter 08-33 on December 18, 2008, directing State agencies to immediately suspend work on all contracts and grants funded by State bonds. As a result, the project was not completed and tasks such as mobilization of equipment, site preparation, and baseline monitoring must be repeated, increasing the total project costs. SWIA will be able to complete the Study this fall because the Conservancy will be able to restart the grant issued under the September 25, 2008 authorization with proceeds from State bond sales in March and April of this year and because the funding shortfall may be filled with the proposed augmentation as well as funds provided to other project partners by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

PROJECT FINANCING:

State Water Resources Control Board	\$195,000
Coastal Conservancy (Exhibit 2)	\$425,000
Coastal Conservancy	\$345,344
Ocean Protection Council	\$1,100,550
Department of Boating and Waterways	\$653,080
US Army Corps of Engineers	\$179,020
<u>USGS (in-kind)</u>	<u>\$346,267</u>

Total Project Cost	\$3,244,261
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The Conservancy's funding for this project was approved on September 25, 2008 (Exhibit 2). Previous funding from the Conservancy was allocated to the design and permitting required to develop the Study. This authorization would augment the existing project budget with \$195,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board awarded to the Conservancy on September 15, 2009 for this project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION & STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization regarding the Conservancy's enabling legislation and the goals and objectives in the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan (see Exhibit 2).

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed augmentation remains consistent with Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization regarding the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, updated on September 20, 2007 (see Exhibit 2).

The Conservancy adopted additional project selection criteria on June 4, 2009 to evaluate how proposed projects address vulnerability to sea level rise and other climate change impacts and minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The Study was planned, designed and permitted prior to the adoption of these criteria. The intent of the Study is to monitor the dispersal of the sediment by the tides and waves over the course of days and months. The placement of material is not intended to be a permanent improvement that needs to be resilient in the event of sea level rise or other climate change impacts. However, the data will inform whether and how regional sediment management, one of the adaptation strategies in the Conservancy's Climate Change Policy, may increase beneficial reuse of dredge materials to enable tidal wetlands and other shoreline habitats to keep pace with sea-level rise.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization regarding the consistency with applicable Local Coastal Program policies (see Exhibit 2).

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN/ STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN:

The proposed augmentation of funds remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 25, 2008 authorization regarding the consistency with applicable watershed management plans and water quality control plans (see Exhibit 2).

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed authorization only provides additional funds for the project, and, as such, does not change the project analyzed in the Mitigation Negative Declaration adopted by the Conservancy on September 25, 2008 (See Exhibit 2). The project's Notice of Determination was filed in 2008.